SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS.

Purchase of Paddy.

1. *MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Will the Government be pleased to state whether order R. O. C. No. 11260/43/C. F. S., dated 16th July 1943, re: purchase of paddy during next harvest, modifies the provisions in the previous press Communique dated 1st February 1943 to the effect that holders of lands whose total holdings are less than one acre in extent are not liable to sell to Government?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Food Grains Purchase Officer*): The G. O. is clear on the point. No holder of lands under paddy cultivation is exempted from liability to sell the prescribed quota.

Actual area under paddy

2. *MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: With reference to R. O. C. No. 11260/43/C. F. S. dated 16th July 1943, will the Government be pleased to state whether any and what steps have been taken to ascertain the actual area under paddy during the current season in the three southern taluks of Tovala, Agastisvaram and Kalkulam and also other taluks?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: The Tahsildars of the taluks have been directed to ascertain the same and prepare registers.

Recent statement by the Dewan.

3. *MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the necessary modification of the rules re: purchase of paddy have been issued in accordance with the statement of the Dewan to this Assembly during the general discussions of the Budget, to the effect that it is not the desire of Government to take the whole paddy without making sufficient provision for the means of subsistence, seeds for cultivation, etc., and that the idea is to take only the balance that may remain after giving what is necessary for the land holder and that it is not at all the intention of Government to prevent the man who cultivates lands from getting the legitimate fruit of his enterprise?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: No modifications are necessary to the existing rules. The Settlement Pattom is fixed after making due allowance for cost of cultivation, cultivators' share and land-holders' share. Due attention will be paid to essential and bonafide requirements of the producer before paddy in surplus of the minimum quota is purchased.

MR. C. JABAMONY NADAR: May I know whether the lease of the small land holders will be purchased from them when the Government are satisfied that the production is not sufficient for it?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: A minimum quota is prescribed in this case irrespective of the requirement of the party. At the same time a portion of the produce is given to the cultivator as his share and another portion to the land holder as his share from the gross produce, the minimum quota of Settlement Pattom being only the balance remaining after such deductions.

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